(iii) 'SARC' Radiation Plant at the SRIRAM Institute of Industrial Research, New Delhi.

The first two plants are operating with a capacity utilization factor of over 90% and the third at approximately 50%.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Technical assistance is being provided to private entrepreneurs for setting up such plants.

Functioning of GMRT

2725. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the stage and level of functioning of the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research;

(b) whether it has become functional, if so, to what use it has been put; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make the best and efficient use of this Telescope?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) being set up by TIFR, an aided Institution of the Department of Atomic Energy is in the final stages of completion. It consists of an array of 30 fully steerable parabolic dish antennas each with a diameter of 45 metres. The 30 dishes are installed over a region extending upto about 25 km near Narayangaon about 80 Km North of Pune. It is expected to become fully operational over the next few months.

(b) and (c) the Telescope will be used to carry out front-line fundamental research in astronomy and to study the properties of stars and galaxies and the large scale structure and evolution of the Universe. GMRT will be the largest and most powerful telescope in the world operating at metre wavelengths in the frequency range of 50-1500 MHz. The Department would ensure that this facility is put to the best and efficient use.

Setting up of New Atomic power plants

2726. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the atomic energy source is being expanded by augmenting the capacity of the existing atomic power plants and setting up of new such plants, in view of the depleting coal reserves in the country;

(b) the number of atomic power plants in the country at present, alongwith their location and power generating capacity and performance level; and

(c) the future plans for setting up of such plants during the Ninth Five Year Plan, with their proposed capacity and target dates for commissioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) Presently there are ten nuclear power reactors generating electricity in our country as given below:—

Sl. No.	Nuclear Power Station and its location	Present generation capacity MWe	Year of commiss-ioning	Cumulative Electricity generation upto Feb., 97 (million units)
1.	Tarapur Atomic Power Station located at Tarapur, Maharashtra			
	Unit-1	160	1969	24180
	Unit-2	160	1969	24473
2.	Rajasthan Atomic Power Station located at Rawathat, Rajasthan			
	Unit-1	100	1972	8289
	Unit-2	200	1980	15000
3.	Madras Atomic Power Station located at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu			
	Unit-1	170	1983	12654
	Unit-2	170	1985	10322
4.	Narora Atomic Power Station located at Narora, Uttar Pradesh			
	Unit-1	220	1989	4539
	Unit-2	220	1991	4504
5.	Kakrapar Atomic Power Station located at Kakrapar, Gujarat			
	Unit-1	220	1992	3615
	Unit-2	220	1995	2258

During the ninth plan period, the nuclear power projects currently under construction with a total capacity of 880 MWe, comprising Kaiga Atomic Power Project Units-1&2 in Karnataka and Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Units-3&4 in Rajasthan are expected to be commissioned in 1998. IX Plan proposals envisage commencement of construction of 2×500 MWe capacity Units at Tarapur (TAPP-3&4) and 2×220 MWe capacity Units at Kaiga (Kaiga-3&4), 2×1000 MWe Kudankulam Atomic Power Project in Tamilnadu in co-operation with the Russian Federation and one Unit of 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) are also contemplated. The date of commissioning for each unit will be after about 7 ½ to 8 years from the date of commencement of Plant construction (viz. first pour of concrete).

Demand for Radio pharmaceuticals, Labelled Compounds

2727. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the demand for radiopharmaceuticals, labelled compounds and radio immunoassay kits in our country;

(b) whether this demand is being adequately met;

(c) whether all the major Medical